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Working Notes

file: Escalant

1 December 1995

Note for: C/HRG

Subject: ARRB request re Fabian Escalant Font

1. The following is a gist of my phone call Thursday afternoon (30 November) with Gunn re his request to see Escalant's file(s)*:

As requested by DO, I told Gunn that since we had been unable to link Escalant with the JFK collection or investigation the issue of relevance had been raised and that he would not be able to see any files this week.


Gunn response: "This is an issue that they [ARRB staff] takes seriously... if we [Agency] want a formal request... would prepare one this afternoon...not a fishing expedition...information from a credible source in Johnson White House... [information] linked to 1964 and CIA..."

I suggested that we discuss after he returned from the Conference. He indicated agreement.

2. Gunn may change his mind and send over a formal request anyway; he clearly plans to pursue this issue. I recommend we ask Gunn to be more specific in terms of Escalant's relevance to the JFK assassination story, timeframe and what he is looking for; this could be done either in a meeting with him or in a formal request. He has mentioned in each of his conversations that the Agency may not want this to be a formal written request, but is vague on why.

3. See attached article for Escalant's current activities re JFK Assassination story.

*[Gunn first raised the issue of Escalant several weeks ago; last week he ask if it would be possible to view the file prior to attending a conference on the JFK Assassination that Escalant would also be attending].


Barry Harrelson
Senior Reviewer
JFK Project

CC: Ellie Neiman

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09/01/1995 12:05

7037336297

FSIS

PAGE 01



Europe/Latin America Group/Latin America Division
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013

31 Aug 95

DATE:

1 September 1995

TO

Bill McNaire

ADDRESSEE'S FAX NUMBER

448-9782

ADDRESSEE'S PHONE NUMBER

4-4440

NUMBER OF FAXED PAGES (INCLUDING TRANSMITTAL SHEET)

5

SUBJECT OF MATERIAL

TV piece

MESSAGE:

Please phone Mr. McNaire on receipt.
Thank you very much -

FROM

RENEE GABRIEL

PHONE

6-5177

LATIN AMERICA DIVISION UNCLAS FAX NUMBER: (703) 733-6297

09/01/1995 12:05

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1815

PAGE 82

Page: 1 of 4

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FM:ROLLINS

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..CAT:

PUBLISHABLE

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..TOTAL TAKES:

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..DOCUMENT DATE:

950831

..REQUIREMENTS:

../G FILE FLAG:

..COPY TO ONLY:

..SOURCE VOL NO:

..CITY SOURCE:

Havana Cuba Vision Network

..FROM:

FBI KEY WEST FL

..TO:

AIG 4674

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PAGE 03

Page: 2 of 4

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COUNTRY: CUBA

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REF: wa3108192095 service -- processing request

SOURCE: Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 31 Aug 95

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The Truth Revealed Seminar Discusses JFK's Assassination

..AUTHOR:

..AFFILIATION:

..TARGET OF BROADCAST:

..REFERENCE:

wa3108192095 service -- processing request

..SOURCE LINE:

Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 31 Aug 95

..SUBSLUG:

..SUMMARY:

..TEXT:

[From the "NTV" newscast]

..TEXT:

[FBIS Translated Text] The JFK-The Truth Revealed seminar concludes today in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, after three days of sessions with the participation of Cuban and American researchers. Division General Fabian Escalante Font, and Colonel Arturo Rodriguez, both analysts and historians who work in Cuban national security, presented their views on the 1963 assassination of Kennedy that took place in Dallas, Texas. Eight American researchers also presented their views on the assassination. During the debates, which included renown Brazilian jurists, it became clear that the

09/01/1995 12:05 7037336297

FBIS

PAGE 94

Page: 3 of 4

UNCLASSIFIED

president was the victim of a conspiracy by the so-called parallel powers [poderes paralelos].

..TEXT:

[Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 1 September adds: American researchers who attended the JFK-The Truth Revealed seminar in Rio de Janeiro, described as stupid and absurd the blockade which the United States has maintained against Cuba for 33 years, and demanded that it be lifted.]

..TEXT:

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..ANNOTATION:

..ADDRESS:

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R 011324Z SEP 95

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TO AIG 4674

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PAGE 05

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..INFO ADDRESSEE:
..PUBLISHED DATE:

UNCLASSIFIED

09/07/1995 09:58

7037336237

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PAGE 01

3 Sept. 95



Europe/Latin America Group/Latin America Division
P O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013

DATE:

7 September 95

TO

Bill McVane

ADDRESSEE'S FAX NUMBER:

448-9782

ADDRESSEE'S PHONE NUMBER

4-4440NUMBER OF FAXED PAGES (INCLUDING TRANSMITTAL SHEET), 4

SUBJECT OF MATERIAL

Seminar in Rio article

MESSAGE:

Please phone Mr. McVane on receipt of
this fax. Thank you.

FROM:

LENIEE GARCIA

PHONE:

6-5177

LATIN AMERICA DIVISION UNCLAS FAX NUMBER: (703) 725-5707

09/02/1995 09:58 2037336297

FBIS

PAGE 02

Page: 1 of 3

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FM:ROLLINSA

Renier, Radio Havana broadcasts to the overseas audience

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Havana Radio Havana Cuba

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UNCLAS 6A

SERIAL: PA0609013795

COUNTRY: CUBA

SUBJ: General Escalante Presents Paper on JFK's Assassination

REF: FL0109132495 Havana Cuba Vision Network Spanish 311630

-- The Truth Revealed Seminar Discusses JFK's Assassination

SOURCE: Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Sep 95

TEXT:

..TAGS:

..SUBJECT:

UNCLASSIFIED

09/02/1995 09:58 7837336237

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PAGE 03

Page: 2 of 3

UNCLASSIFIED

General Escalante Presents Paper on JFK's Assassination

..AUTHOR:

..AFFILIATION:

..TARGET OF BROADCAST:

..REFERENCE:

FLO109132495 Havana Cuba Vision Network Spanish 311630

-- The Truth Revealed Seminar Discusses JFK's Assassination

..SOURCE LINE:

Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Sep 95

..SUBSLUG:

..SUMMARY:

..TEXT:

[Station commentary: from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

..TEXT:

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of investigators, eight U.S. and two Cuban, have just held a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The group analyzed the political circumstances, direct causes, and main responsibility for the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy in November 1963. It is interesting to point out that 32 years after the Dallas assassination, well-founded doubts continue to grow over the official reports given at that time.

..TEXT:

A seminar entitled: JFK, The Truth Revealed was organized by the Rio de Janeiro authorities in late August in that capital city.

..TEXT:

During that seminar, Cuban and U.S. experts agreed to rule out the theory of a sole killer, which is the main conclusion of the report issued by the Warren Commission. The commission was appointed was by the U.S. government to investigate the case.

..TEXT:

U.S. lawyer Wayne Smith, former chief of the U.S. Interest Office in Havana, said he was convinced U.S. secret services and Cuban counterrevolutionary elements had plotted to murder President Kennedy for not authorizing new aggressions against Cuba, after the foiled 1961 mercenary invasion. Wayne Smith said that, after 30 years of studies and investigations by specialists from non-governmental U.S. organizations, it had been established that President Kennedy had rejected the plan of implementing new anti-Cuban operation in 1963; the same year in which he was shot to death in Dallas.

..TEXT:

It is not futile to recall that during those days of counterrevolutionary effervescence -- sponsored, promoted, and financed by the government in Washington -- attempts were made to build a case against the Cuban government on charges that it was responsible for this crime. The allegation was that the Cuban government was retaliating for the Bahia de Cochinos action. At that time, it was said that the Cuban government had hired several U.S. Mafia criminals to carry out the attack. There was a great deal of speculation about accused Lee Harvey Oswald's visits to Moscow and Havana, where he allegedly trained for the Dallas operation.

..TEXT:

President Kennedy's assassination was followed by an unusual number of deaths. A few of them were suspiciously natural or

09/07/1995 09:56 7037326297

FPIS

Page 04

Page 3 of 3

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accidental and clearly indicated that some one was trying to erase clues.

..TEXT:

Division General Fabian Escalante, from the Cuban Interior Ministry, represented Cuba at the seminar. He based his thesis on the fact that the Cuban counterrevolution had played a fundamental role in the assassination. Gen. Escalante presented a well-documented position to back his theory and was widely-praised by the seminar's participants. Other theories presented at this event pointed to the collusion between the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the Cuban counterrevolution sectors, mainly located in the city of Miami.

..TEXT:

Recently, several secret documents from the Warren Commission's investigations were revealed. They are evidently intended to weaken the strength of versions that were closer to the truth. Another lot of evidence, however, was left in the shadow. It will most surely be revealed when the good and bad people related to this historic episode have died.

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PAGE 03

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SERIAL: FLO109132495

COUNTRY: CUHA

SUEJ: The Truth Revealed Seminar Discusses JFK's Assassination

REF: wa3108192095 service -- processing request

SOURCE: Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 31 Aug 95

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..SUBJECT:

The Truth Revealed Seminar Discusses JFK's Assassination

..AUTHOR:

..AFFILIATION:

..TARGET OF BROADCAST:

..REFERENCE:

wa3108192095 service -- processing request

..SOURCE LINE:

Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 31 Aug 95

..SUBSLUG:

..SUMMARY:

..TEXT:

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PAGE 04

Page: 3 of 4

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..PUBLISHED DATE:

02/01/1995, 12:25

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CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
2000

28 Aug 95

Europe/Latin America Group Latin America Division
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013

DATE:

1 September 1995

TO:

Bill McNair

ADDRESSEE'S FAX NUMBER:

448-7782

ADDRESSEE'S PHONE NUMBER:

4-4440

NUMBER OF FAXED PAGES INCLUDING TRANSMITTAL SHEET:

5

SUBJECT OF MATERIAL:

Reduprom Brazilian article

MESSAGE:

Please phone Mr. Medina on receipt.
Thank you very much -

FROM:

REMER GABRIEL

PHONE:

6-5177

LATIN AMERICA DIVISION UNCLAS FAX NUMBER: (703) 733-6297

09/01/1995 12:25 7937336237

FBIS

PAGE 82

Page: 1 of 5

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RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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SERIAL: PY0109151695

COUNTRY: BRAZIL

SUBJ: TAKEALL-- Rio de Janeiro Seminar on JFK Reported

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07/01/1995 12:25 7937326297

FBI

PAGE 03

Page: 2 of 5

UNCLASSIFIED

REF: 1. f10109132495 havana cuba vision spanish 311630 -- the truth revealed seminar discusses jfk's assassination
2. wa3108192095 service on processing request

SOURCE: Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2010 GMT 28 Aug 95
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..TAGS:

..SUBJECT:

TAKEALL-- Rio de Janeiro Seminar on JFK Reported

..AUTHOR:

..AFFILIATION:

..TARGET OF BROADCAST:

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1. f10109132495 havana cuba vision spanish 311630 -- the truth revealed seminar discusses jfk's assassination
2. wa3108192095 service on processing request

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Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2010 GMT 28 Aug 95

..SUBSLUG:

..SUMMARY:

..TEXT:

[Article by Claudio Renato]

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[FBI Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 28 Aug (AE) -- The shot that destroyed the skull of then U.S. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy on the morning of 22 November 1963, at Dealey Square in Dallas, strongly hit Latin America, and has had repercussions throughout the world. This matter will be discussed beginning 29 August at the Rio de Janeiro Court.

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At the "JFK -- The Truth Revealed" international seminar, U.S. investigators and legal experts and Cuban secret service agents will try to explain how the death of Kennedy was masterminded. The assassination reportedly divided power in the continent between the interests of terrorist CIA sectors (among them, Cuban counterrevolutionaries) and the mafia, which was responsible for arms smuggling and international drug trafficking.

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For the first time, U.S. and Cuban agents, among them Division General Fabian Escalant Font, of the Cuban Interior Ministry, will be able to analyze a 14-page document issued by the U.S. Congress, the classification of which was lifted on 7 May 1994. The document proves the links between Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby (the man who killed him hours before his trial) and the ties that both of them had with Florida smugglers and drug traffickers, who were also involved in the assassination of Kennedy. The document notes that Ruby was one of the mafia bosses who was directly involved with heavy weapons smuggling.

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In his capacity as chief of Fidel Castro's personal guard, Gen. Escalant Font managed to foil 648 attacks against the Cuban leader, most of which were, according to the Cuban secret service, masterminded by the CIA. Gen. Font brings, among other surprises, the identity of the men who were at Dealey Square in Dallas and who

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shot at Kennedy from five different places.

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There is something of which Font is sure: the shot that killed Kennedy was fired from a point in front of him, and could not have been fired by Oswald. At the square, according to agents infiltrated among the conspirators, were exiled Cuban gunmen Pedro Dias Lanz, Orlando Bosch, and Guillerme and Ignacio Novo Sampol, in addition to Oswald himself. A former U.S. marine, Oswald was ready to assume the guilt for the attack, while CIA agents would press charges against the Fidel Castro regime.

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Says Brazilian historian Claudia Furiati, who wrote the book entitled "ZR-The Rifle That Killed Kennedy," based on unpublished Cuban secret service documents: "The assassination of John F. Kennedy is not a closed matter, and its consequences are still being felt in Brazil and Latin America." ZR-Rifle is the code for CIA parallel operations staged to eliminate foreign figures. The main target of such operations, which were not under Kennedy's control, was Fidel Castro.

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According to the Cuban secret service, Kennedy's willingness to fight the mafia, restore dialogue with Cuba, and implement a more responsible policy toward Latin America, without permanently resorting to the military, was the reason that led the conspirators to order his death.

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[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Cuban documents, among the conspirators were CIA agent David Phillips, the ZR-Rifle coordinator (who reportedly also participated in the ousting of Chilean President Salvador Allende in 1973, and, three years later, in the assassination of Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier, a former ambassador of Salvador Allende in the United States) and Santos Trafficante, a mafia coordinator, who reportedly hired Cuban gunmen. According to the Cubans, however, the mastermind behind the murder was CIA Director Richard Helms.

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Gen. Escalant Font said that the other conspirators who masterminded the death of Kennedy were mafia members John Rosselli, Carlos Marcelo and Sam Giancana; Cuban counterrevolutionaries Joaquin Sanjenis, Pedro Dias Lan, Felix Rodrigues, Nino Diaz, Manuel Artimes, Orlando Bosch, Luis Posada Carriles, and Tony Cuesta, among others; and CIA agents Howard Hunt, Tony Varona, Gerry Hemming, Frank Sturgis and Clay Shaw.

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In the secret Cuban documents, Lee Oswald appears as a special chapter. Before the assassination of Kennedy, Oswald -- under CIA orientation -- learned Russian, lived in the USSR and, from Mexico, tried to travel to Cuba. His mission failed, the Cuban agents said, and he could not leave for the island. At that time, the CIA contacted an official of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico to establish a link between Oswald and the Cuban Government, despite the fact that Oswald's contacts were precisely among the anti-Castroist paramilitary militias in Florida.

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Says Claudia Furiari: "Oswald was part of another plan, and the CIA had already chosen him as the man who would appear to be the only one guilty for the death of Kennedy, even though he was not aware of it."

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According to Rio de Janeiro Court President Jose Gama Malcher, the importance of the seminar on JFK lies in the objections against parallel power -- like that of the CIA -- which several times attacks legally established power. "They are powers within power, and they are sometimes outside the realm of government control," Malcher said.

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Cuban and U.S. investigators agree on one point: The world, especially Latin America, was never the same after the death of Kennedy.

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In the years that followed his death, dictatorships intensified in Latin American countries, among them Brazil and Chile, with the support of radical CIA sectors, and drug trafficking and arms smuggling began to operate in a new geopolitical context, based on powerful cartels. This was a reward that the mafia was eagerly awaiting, after the Criminal Union declined to establish its old headquarters in Cuba, which had been strengthened in the time of Fulgencio Batista, Fidel Castro's predecessor. The reward for Cuban exiles was the strengthening of the blockade against the Castro regime, while the United States, which was engaged in a strong arms buildup policy, extended the war in Vietnam until 1973.

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Shortly afterward, the same CIA agents became involved in a noisy espionage case, which led to the downfall of Richard Nixon and which was known by the name of Watergate.

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..INFO ADDRESSEE:

..PUBLISHED DATE:

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15 Nov. 1996

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Note for the Record

Subject: ARRB request re Escalante

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Per Ellie, DO has approved ARRB staff access (limited)
to Escalante's 201 File.

Gunn reviewed the file on 25 January 1996 -- has some
questions; wants to see file again. No follow up date set.

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Seminar on JFK Assassination To Convene in Rio

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Jul 95 p 10

[From the Swann Column: "Meeting of Spies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agents of the CIA, FBI, former KGB, and Cuban G-2 secret service will arrive in Rio in August to participate in the seminar "JFK-the truth revealed." The seminar will be held at the Court of Justice and debate the assassination of President John Kennedy.

Among the participants will be ~~Roberto Escobar~~, general of Cuban counter-intelligence, John Newman of the CIA, and James Lesar, director of the U.S. Center for Research and Documentation on Assassinations.

Journalist to Attend Seminar

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Aug 95 p 7

[From the Swann Column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Journalist Saul Landau, one of the authors of the book "Orlando Letelier: Testimony and Vengeance" on the assassination of the former Chilean Foreign Minister in Washington in 1976, will arrive in Brazil on 28 August.

During the seminar "JFK: the truth revealed," convening at Rio de Janeiro's Court of Justice from 29 to 31 August, he will maintain that the assassinations of Kennedy and Letelier were planned and executed by the same group.

With his book, Landau was able to catch General Contreras, former chief of Pinochet's secret police, by proving his involvement in the crime.